

Castro Blasts Raids on Cuba

Says U.S. Leaders Imperiled by Aid to Rebels

EDITOR'S NOTE—Prime Minister Fidel Castro turned up at a reception in the Brazilian Embassy in Havana Saturday night and submitted to an impromptu interview by Associated Press correspondent Daniel Harker. Harker's account of the interview reached New York Sunday afternoon.

By DANIEL HARKER

HAVANA (AP)—Prime Minister Fidel Castro said Saturday night "United States leaders" would be in danger if they helped in any attempt to do away with leaders of Cuba.

Bitterly denouncing what he called recent U.S.-prompted raids on Cuban territory, Castro said: "We are prepared to fight them and answer in kind. United States leaders should think that if they are aiding terrorist plans to eliminate Cuban leaders, they themselves will not be safe."

Speaking with this correspondent at a Brazilian National Day reception in the Brazilian Embassy, Castro also disclosed that Cuba has not made up its mind about signing the limited nuclear test-ban treaty drawn up last month in Moscow.

RUSSIANS PUZZLED

(A recent dispatch from Moscow indicated the Russians themselves have been puzzled by Cuba's silence in connection with the treaty. Speculation there was that Castro was holding out for more Soviet economic aid and threatening to cast his lot with the Red Chinese.)

Castro said Cuba is studying the treaty "with extreme care."

"This is an important decision... and we are not ready yet to make up our minds," he added.

The prime minister did not explain which points in the treaty were being given most considera-

tion. But he said: "We are taking into account the current world situation, which of course involves the Caribbean situation, which has been deteriorating in the last few days due to piratical attacks by the United States against the Cuban people."

TREND CHANGED

World affairs, he said, "seemed to be entering a more peaceful climate a few days ago, but now this trend has changed with attacks."

He accused the United States of carrying out "double-crossing and shifting policies."

He added: "The United States is always ready to negotiate and make promises which later it will not honor. This has happened to promises made during the October crisis. They have been broken, as can be seen with new attacks. But I warn this is leading to a very dangerous situation that could lead to a worse crisis than October's."

Castro then launched into a discussion of the U.S. political scene, saying he expects no change in Washington's foreign policy even if there is a change in administrations after the 1964 presiden-

tial election.

BOTH 'CHEAP, CROOKED'

"I am sure it will be a fight between (President) Kennedy and (Sen. Barry) Goldwater (R-Ariz.). Both are cheap and crooked politicians," Castro said.

"We have heard Goldwater is tough. Well, if he ever is elected, let him try his tough policies on

Cuba. We will know how to defend ourselves, and we will not be afraid to face him, but, in any case, I am not interested in getting involved in U.S. domestic politics."